Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method comprising:

establishing a connection from a first network component to a second network component;

receiving a request from a device across a public network at ~~a~~ the first network component to establish a connection between the device and a private network;

determining if the device is authorized to connect with the private network;

if authorized, forwarding the request from the first network component to ~~a~~ the second network component; and

the second network component creating a connection between the private network and the device via the first network component, wherein the second component comprises a server.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the second network component establishing a temporary connection between the device and a device included in the private network.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, if not authorized, denying the device access to the private network.

4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the first network component and the second network component have a connection lasting as long as a mechanism at each of the components supporting the connection remains active.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the first network component and the device have a connection lasting as long as a mechanism at the first network component and a mechanism at the device supporting the connection remain active.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the determining includes authenticating a password.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the public network includes the Internet.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the first network component and the second network component include proxy servers.

10. (original) An article comprising a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

establish a connection from a first network component to a second network component;

receive a request from a device across a public network at ~~a~~ the first network component to establish a connection between the device and a private network;

determine if the device is authorized to connect with the private network;

if authorized, forward the request from the first network component to ~~a~~ the second network component; and

create, with the second network component, a connection between the private network and the device via the first network component, wherein the second component comprises a server.

11. (original) The article of claim 10 further comprising the second network component establishing a temporary connection between the device and a device included in the private network.

12. (original) The article of claim 10 further comprising, if not authorized, denying the device access to the private network.

13. (cancelled)

14. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the first network component and the second network component have a

connection lasting as long as a mechanism at each of the components supporting the connection remains active.

15. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the first network component and the device have a connection lasting as long as a mechanism at the first network component and a mechanism at the device supporting the connection remain active.

16. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the determining includes authenticating a password.

17. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the public network includes the Internet.

18. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the first network component and the second network component include proxy servers.

19. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a device configured to connect to a public network;

a server component configured to connect to the public network; and

an agent component configured to connect to the server component and to a private network ~~separated from the public network by a security mechanism~~ and configured to provide the

device with access to the private network via the server component and the public network, wherein the agent component is configured to connect to the server component prior to connecting to the private network.

20. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is also configured to provide any number of devices configured to connect to the public network with access to the private network via the server component and the public network.

21. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is also configured to provide the device with access to a device included in the private network.

22. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the server component and the agent component are both extensible to support any protocols used by the public network and by the private network.

23. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the public network includes the Internet.

24. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the server component is also configured to authenticate the device.

25. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is also configured to maintain a connection with the server component as long as a mechanism at each of the components supporting the connection remains active.

26. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the server component is also configured to maintain a connection with the device as long as a mechanism at the server component and a mechanism at the device supporting the connection remain active.

27. (cancelled)

28. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is implemented inside the private network.

29. (cancelled)